



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, June 1st, 2026 | **RSVP:** kycivilwarroundtable.org/rsvp

Social Time: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM | **Address:** 1801 Newtown Pike

“Conquer or Die: Partisan Warfare in 1862 Western Kentucky”

In the summer of 1862, partisan ranger warfare entered western Kentucky as Adam Rankin Johnson attempted to raise a regiment behind Union lines. A partisan ranger regiment operated differently than a typical cavalry regiment, mostly since their activities were behind enemy lines. He gained recruits with flashy attacks and raids that not only reached the local newspapers but even the international press, especially when he captured Newburgh, Indiana, in July 1861. To remain a viable and active force, Johnson had to constantly resupply his men by capturing Union equipment and weapons. This activity forced the Union to redirect several infantry and cavalry regiments, Brown Water Navy vessels, and valuable resources that could have been used with the main armies advancing in the South. Eventually, the Union learned how to quell Johnson’s success and re-establish control behind their own lines, but not before many lives and millions of dollars of valuable military goods were lost.



Derrick Lindow is an 8th-grade US History teacher in Owensboro, Kentucky. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Kentucky Wesleyan College and a Master’s in Education from the University of the Cumberlands. He also holds a Master’s in History from Western Kentucky University. In 2019, he was awarded the James Madison Memorial Fellowship for the state of Kentucky and is also a Kentucky Colonel. He is the owner and co-administrator of the Western Theater in the Civil War website and blog. *We Shall Conquer or Die* is his first book with another currently being written. At home are his two boys Ezra and Owen and his wife of 14 years, Allie.



PRESIDENT’S REPORT | BILL FARMER, JR.

Hello Kentucky Civil War Roundtable Members: The 2025-2026 Roundtable season is winding down, and I hope you’ll make plans to join us at the Embassy Suites on Newtown Pike for our June 1st meeting. Every meal is a banquet and our fellowship is unmatched. You and, hopefully, a guest, should come and enjoy Derrick Lindow and his presentation. The Embassy has become our modern day “Springs Inn”, and you will find old friends to enjoy and new members and guests to get to know.

While it is not a surprise to us, a recent message from the Civil War Roundtable Congress indicates our newsletter continues to impress. They say, “Your product is very well done, both as a means for imparting essential information & interesting content to the members and as an attractive incentive for potential members to seek you out.” George Ridings and Susie Morton are excellent editors and con-

tributors. Our content is much more than just a notice of the next meeting. This current newsletter is no exception.

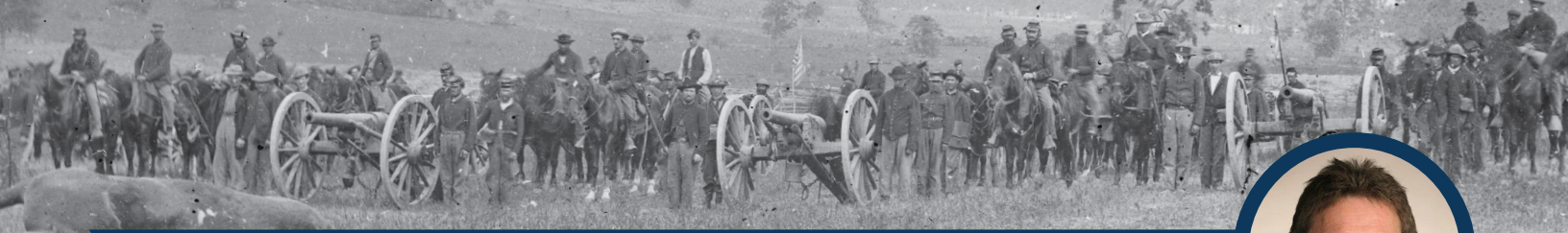
The annual board meeting is on June 9th. It is an excellent time to take stock and to lean into upcoming meetings and events. If you have a thought, suggestion or other comment of need please pass those along to me or any board member.

The war from 1861 to 1865 is long ago and our work is to keep it alive today. Being an active member is best for all. Come early, enjoy the meal and program then participate in the thoughtful Q and A that follows.

Many thanks, and my best,

Bill Farmer, Jr.

PRESIDENT



TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY



As we come to the close of another fantastic year, a reminder that Membership invoices for 2027 will be mailed out in August. There will be opportunities to upgrade membership status, and we encourage everyone to think of their commitment to this organization. Sponsorship also remains a great way to advertise your company, while adding additional support to the Roundtable. We will be running at a deficit for this fiscal year-end,

and your board will be meeting soon to review expenses and how the programs may be impacted in the future. We strive to continue to provide the highest quality programming and presentations and thank our members for their continued support.

SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD, JR.



Your board, and particularly the Speakers Committee, has been very busy during the interim between meetings. We have secured commitments from several interesting speakers through 2028. Of particular interest to me is Anne E. Marshall who is the daughter of our long time and recently deceased member, William Marshall. Anne is a professor of history at Mississippi State University. Her mother still resides in Lexington. Her topic is Cassius Clay. Due to conflicts, we had to reschedule her to June of 2027.

is a New York Times bestselling author whose books have sold more than 12 million copies.

Anne Marshall is the author of *Cassius Marcellus Clay, The life of an Antislavery Slaveholder and the Paradox of American Reform*. I bought my copy from Black Swan Books on High Street. The book addresses the difference between an Emancipator and an Abolitionist.

For those of you who prefer watching to reading, I recommend the series *Manhunt* on Apple TV. This miniseries details the hunt for John Wilkes Booth after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. It goes into detail of the actions of Edwin Stanton, the Secretary of War, and the pivotal role he played in tracking John Wilkes Booth.

I want to recommend Erik Larson's most recent book, *The Demon of Unrest*. This book details the five (5) months between Abraham Lincoln's election as President to the start of the Civil War with the firing on Fort Sumter. Erik Larson

I joined the KCWRT in 1979. I started keeping copies of the newsletters I received from the KCWRT in 1982. The KCWRT is in the process of scanning these old newsletters and soon they will be available on the KCWRT website for all to enjoy.

Due to scheduling conflicts, we will be holding some of the future meetings at different locations. Please be sure to read your newsletter to stay informed about any important changes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! And just like that, we are closing out our 2025-2026 Presentation Season. I hope you've enjoyed our speakers and their presentations. Here's the news you need to know for the upcoming meeting:

vegetarian option is available as well. Just let me know your preference when you RSVP. Another reminder when you RSVP, you need to pay for your meal at that time. Please be considerate and follow this procedure so that I don't have to spend time reaching out to you to remind you to pay days before the event.

The biggest thing to note is that the meeting date is JUNE 1st! RSVP to me via text, email, phone call or website before Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 4 PM. You will find my contact information in this Newsletter.

For those members who might have trouble with stairs, please note that you can park around the back of the building and enter through that entrance and not have to tackle the stairs. It's actually a shorter distance to the check in table coming that way Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

When you RSVP via email or text, let me know how you want to pay for your meal...online, with a credit card on file or check. I'm not sure what the menu will be for the meeting, but I'll let you all know ASAP. Remember a



Sumter to Shiloh: Kentucky & Kentuckians During the First Year of War

PART THREE

On September 22, 1861, Kentucky Native President Lincoln wrote "I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game" on the third page of an eight-page letter to Illinois United States Senator Orville Browning, a Kentucky Native and a friend of Lincoln in Illinois since the 1830s.

Lincoln's awareness of the fragile status of Kentucky's ties to the Union, and of the importance of Kentucky to the preservation of the Union are evident in this broader excerpt of the letter (see below). Lincoln wrote this after Union General John C. Frémont issued a directive freeing slaves in Missouri, which caused a controversy among the border states including Kentucky about possibility of abolition of slavery as a primary war aim.

"...I was so assured, as to think it probable, that the very arms we had furnished Kentucky would be turned against us. I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game. Kentucky gone, we can not hold Missouri, nor, as I think, Maryland. These all against us, and the job on our hands is too large for us. We would as well consent to separation at once, including the surrender of this capitol. You must not understand I took my course on the proclamation because of Kentucky. I took the same ground in a private letter to General Fremont before I heard from Kentucky..."

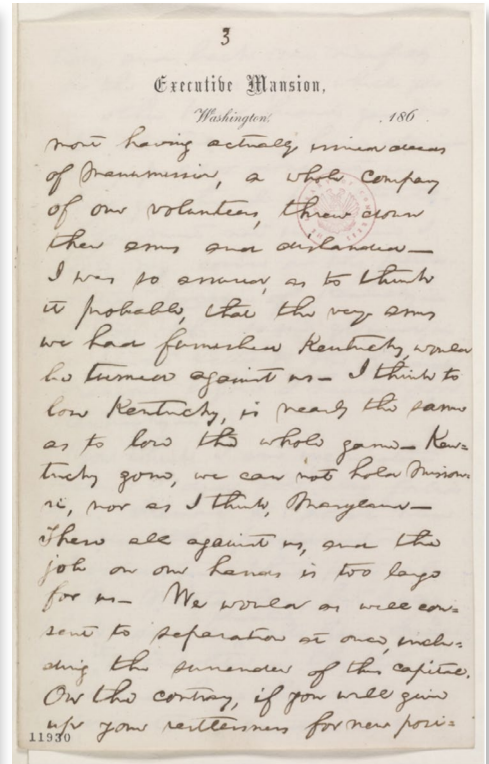
Transcript of the letter can be found here:
<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/letter-to-o-h-browning/>

You can read the entire original document here:
<https://www.loc.gov/resource/mal.1192600/?sp=5&st=image&r=-0.887,0.35,2.775,1.264,0>



Senator Orville Browning

Anxiety in the Border States
Browning shared President Lincoln's fears over what might happen if border slave states joined the Confederacy. Lincoln's letter to Browning in September 1861 reflects his anxiety concerning the state of his birth: "I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game." Surviving Confederate attack, Kentucky remained in the Union.



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A brief biography of Browning can be found here:

https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/LegislativeMoments/moments08RS/29_web_leg_moments.htm

This issue will examine significant actions in Kentucky in October and November 1861. The first portion of this article series will focus on significant actions across Kentucky, and the second portion will focus on significant leaders on both sides with Kentucky connections and their early actions, during the first Year of War – from Sumter to Shiloh.

All battle summaries are excerpted from the National Park Service Civil War Sites Advisory Commission website here, unless otherwise indicated:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20070816042913/http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/battles/bystate.htm#ky>

Here are two listings of Kentucky’s Civil War battles:

- <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/kentucky.htm>
- [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Civil War/civil war battles skirmishes kentucky.htm](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Civil%20War/civil%20war%20battles%20skirmishes%20kentucky.htm)

October 21, 1861: Camp Wildcat or Wildcat Mountain

Estimated Casualties: 78 total (US 25; CS 53)

Result(s): Union victory

Description: Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer’s men occupied Cumberland Gap and took position at Cumberland Ford to counter the Unionist activity in the area. Brig. Gen. George H. Thomas sent a detachment under Col. T.T. Garrard to secure the ford on the Rockcastle River, establish a camp at Wildcat Mountain, and obstruct the Wilderness Road passing through the area. Col. Garrard informed Thomas that if he did not receive reinforcements, he would have to retreat because he was outnumbered seven to one. Thomas sent Brig. Gen. A. Schoepf with what amounted to a brigade of men to Col. Garrard, bringing the total force to about 7,000. On the morning of October 21, soon after Schoepf arrived, some of his men moved forward and ran into Rebel forces, commencing a fight. The Federals repelled the Confederate attacks, in part due to fortifications, both man-made and natural. The Confederates withdrew during the night and continued their retreat to Cumberland Ford, which they reached on the 26th. A Union victory was welcomed, countering the Confederate victory at Barbourville.

Here is a link to a 6-minute video on the battle from HistoryGoneWild:

<https://youtu.be/o6ueZqfwvCI?si=y4NmD-JdVKUt-mWPf>

The official count was 15 killed and 60 wounded.

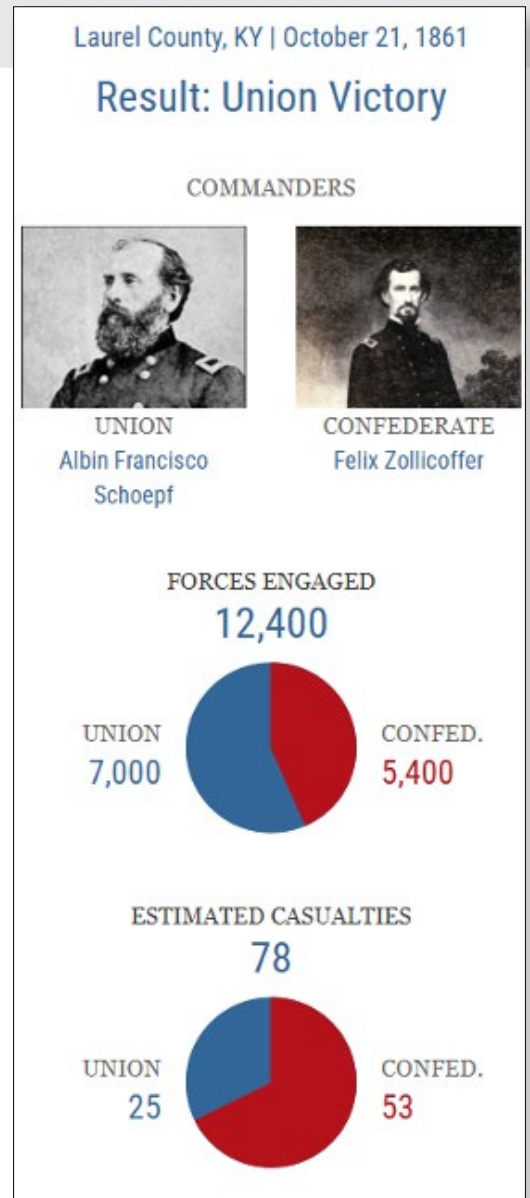
“Our loss was 42 wounded and 11 killed and missing.”

General Felix Zollicoffer, Commander of Confederate Forces at Wildcat

“Our loss yesterday was ascertained to be 4 killed and 18 wounded.”

General Albin Schoepf, Commander of Union Forces at Wildcat

From Interpretive Marker at Battlefield

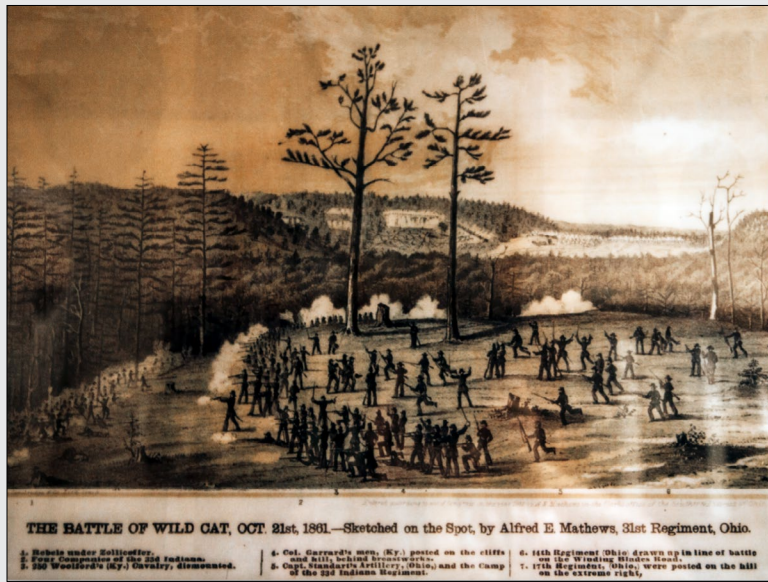
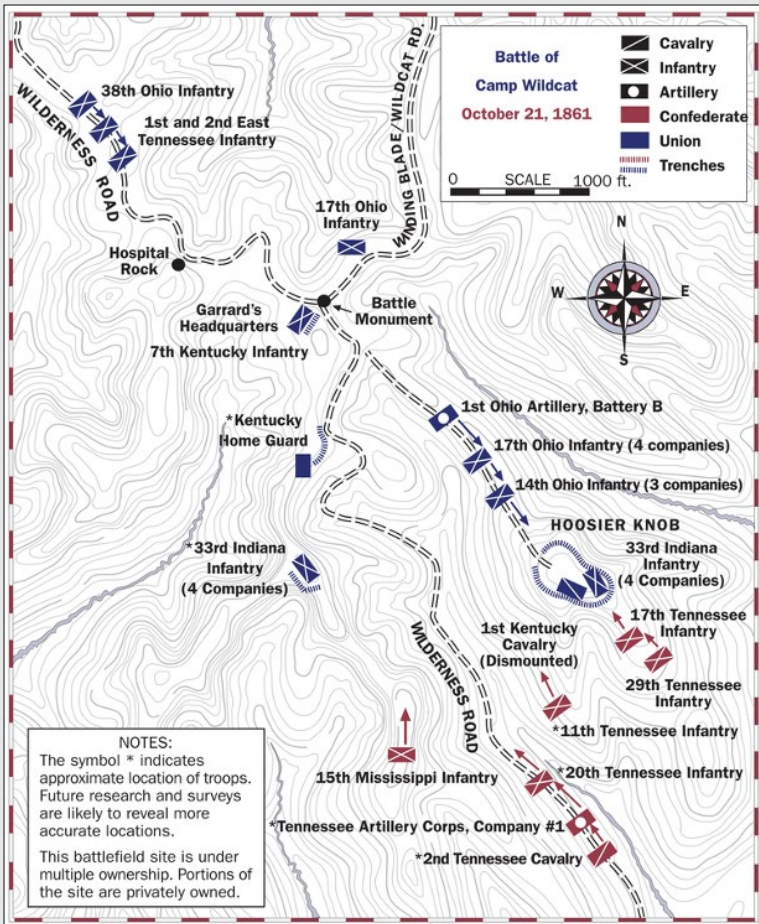


Graphic from American Battlefield Trust page: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/camp-wildcat>

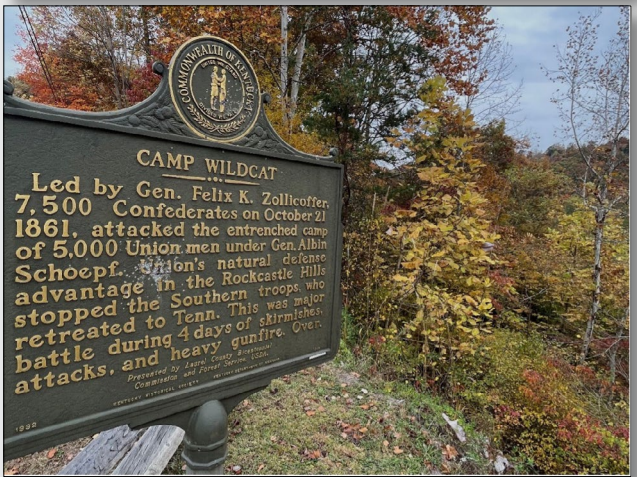
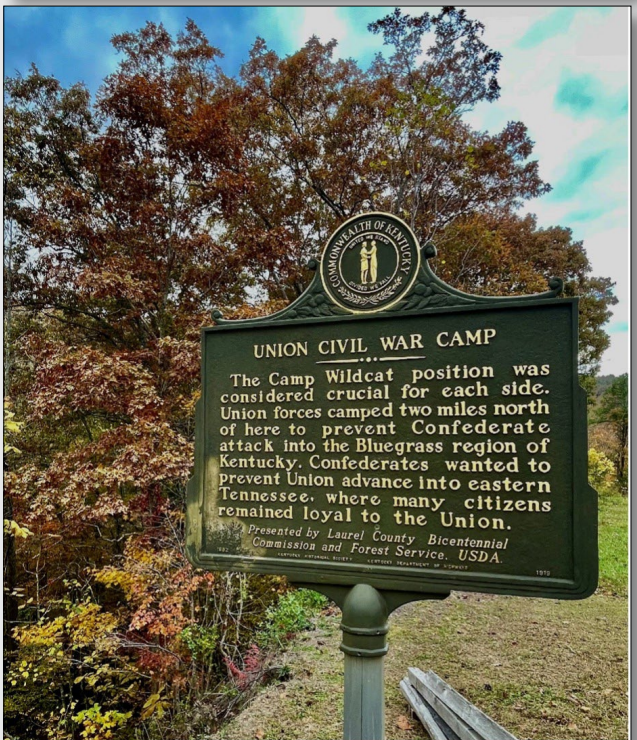
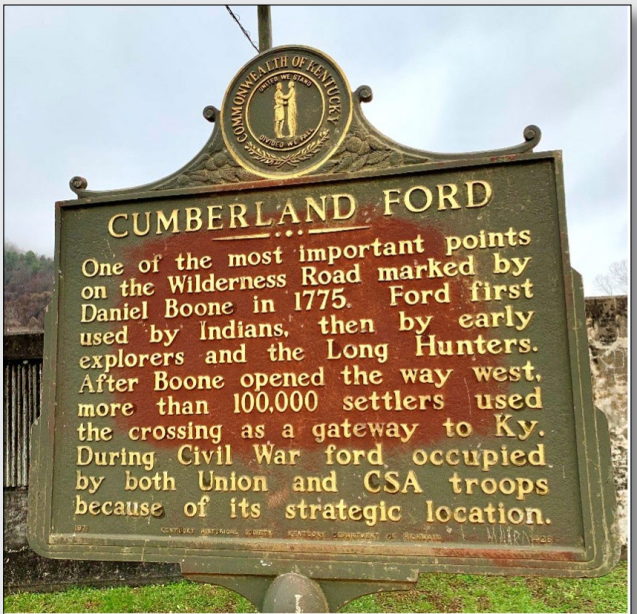


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SUMTER TO SHILOH CONTINUED



Map and sketch image from Camp Wildcat Preservation Foundation page: <https://www.wildcatbattlefield.org/>



November 7, 1861: Belmont, Missouri (across from Columbus, KY)

Estimated Casualties: 1,248 (607 US; 641 CS) / Result: Inconclusive

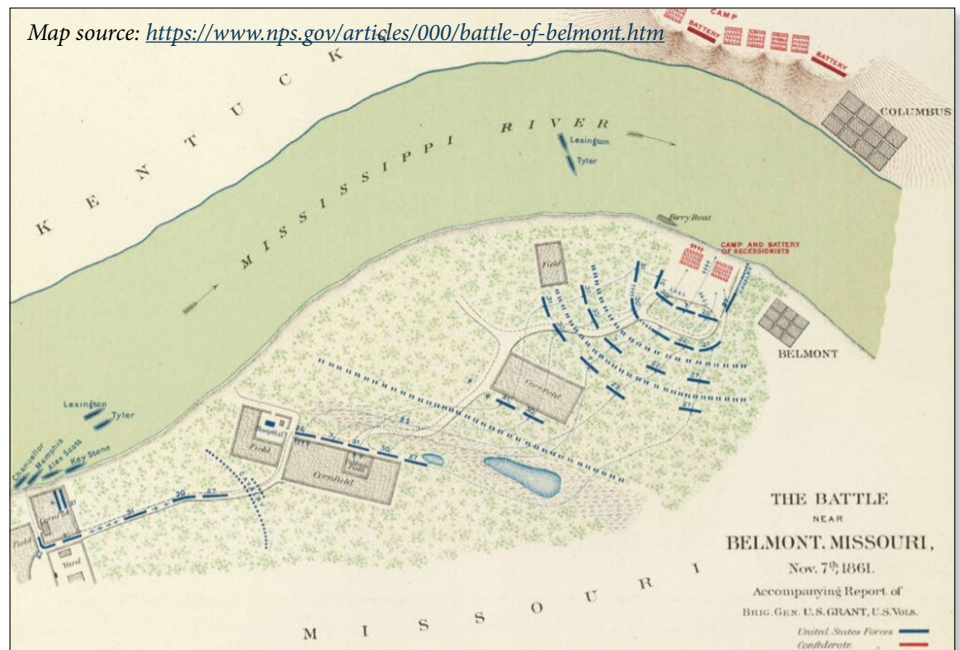
Battle Summary from American Battlefield Trust: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/belmont>

“Worried that Confederate forces stationed in Kentucky would reinforce troops in Arkansas, Major General John C. Frémont ordered Grant to distract southern forces stationed in Columbus, Kentucky. Grant chose to attack Belmont, Missouri, a small ferry landing directly across Columbus on the Ohio River, where Camp Johnson, a small Confederate observation post, was positioned. At 8:30 am on November 7, 1861, Grant and his Union forces disembarked steamboats at Hunter’s Farm, three miles north of Belmont, Missouri. They marched south until they were one mile away from Camp Johnson. Once there, the two sides skirmished until 2 pm when Union forces established an upper hand. Soon after, Confederate forces retreated toward Columbus, Kentucky, and Union forces moved in and captured Camp Johnson.

The first victory to many of the soldiers, Union forces began to celebrate by raiding the Confederate camp. When the celebration became overexuberant, Grant ordered the camp to be set on fire to maintain order....Confederate reinforcements, bolstered by large-range cannons in Columbus, attacked the Union forces as they marched back to Hunter’s Farm. After another skirmish, Union forces reached their waiting steamships and set sail back to Paducah, Kentucky.

While the battle ended inconclusively, both sides claimed victory. Confederate forces thought they won at Belmont since they forced the Union troops to retreat to Paducah, Kentucky. Union forces believed it was their victory since the skirmish resulted in heavy Confederate losses and, according to Grant’s post-war memoirs, the Confederate forces “gave up all idea of detaching troops from Columbus” after the engagement. The Battle of Belmont was the first test as a battlefield commander of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, future General-in-Chief of the Union Army.”

Years later, Grant recounted Belmont and here are a few of his reflections: “At first some of the officers seemed to think that to be surrounded was to be placed in a hopeless position, where there was nothing to do but surrender. But



when I announced that we had cut our way in and could cut our way out just as well, it seemed a new revelation to officers and soldiers...

I was the only man of the National army between the rebels and our transports. The captain of a boat that had just pushed out but had not started, recognized me and ordered the engineer not to start the engine; he then had a plank run out for me. My horse seemed to take in the situation...My horse put his fore feet over the bank without hesitation or urging, and with his hind feet well under him, slid down the bank and trotted aboard the boat, twelve or fifteen feet away, over a single gang plank. I dismounted and went at once to the upper deck.”

-- Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant, Chapter XX

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Personal_Memoirs_of_U._S._Grant/Chapter_XX

Here is an additional article on Belmont/Columbus:

“General Grant’s First Battle (Belmont, 7 November 1861)”

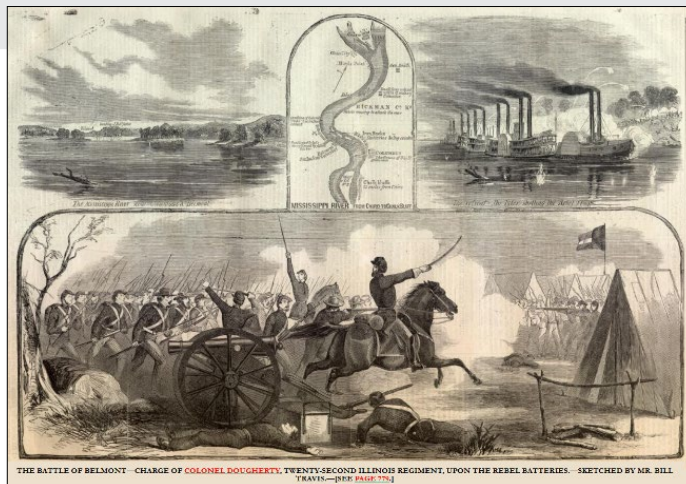
By CSM James Clifford, USA-Retired:

<https://armyhistory.org/general-grants-first-battle-belmont-7-november-1861/>

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Source: *The Battle of Belmont as Told in a Comic Strip* by Sean Michael Chick, posted on Emerging Civil War site, August 5, 2021: <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2021/08/05/the-battle-of-belmont-as-told-in-a-comic-strip/>



Source: <http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war/1861/december/battle-belmont.htm>

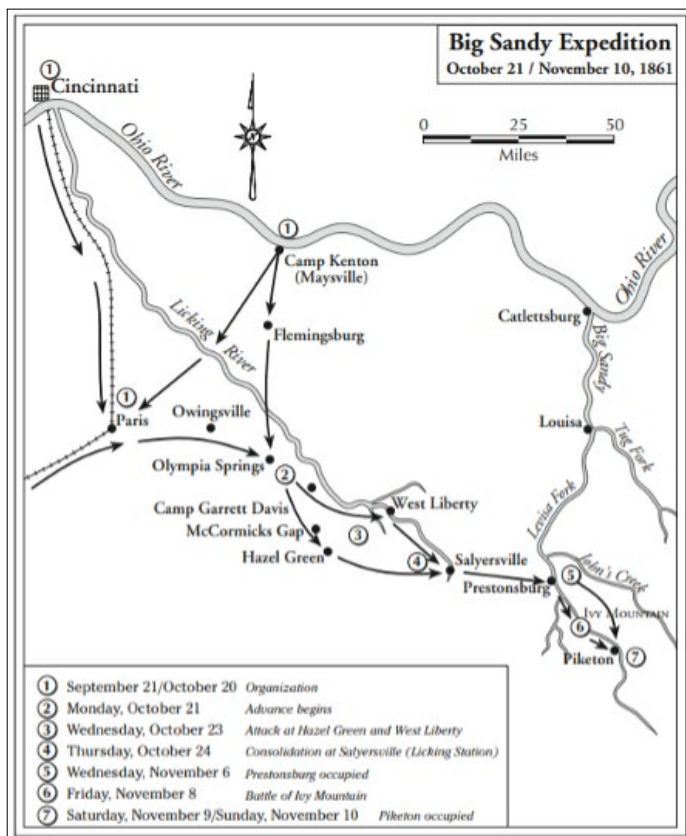
November 8-9, 1861: Ivy Mountain or Ivy Creek or Ivy Narrows

Estimated Casualties: 293 total (US 30; CS 263)

Result(s): Union victory (Indecisive, but Confederates withdrew)

Description: While recruiting in southeast Kentucky, Rebels (5th KY Infantry, CS) under Kentuckian Colonel John Stuart Williams (served in KY State Legislature before and after the war, was elected to US Senate from KY and served 1879-1885, was a Mexican War veteran and rose to rank of Brigadier General in CS Army) ran short of ammunition at Prestonsburg and fell back to Pikeville to replenish their supply.

Kentucky Native Brigadier General William Nelson sent out a detachment from near Louisa under Col. Joshua Sill (from Ohio; namesake of Fort Sill) while he started out from Prestonsburg with a larger force in an attempt to “turn or cut the Rebels off.” Williams prepared for evacuation, hoping for time to reach Virginia, and sent out a cavalry force to meet Nelson about eight miles from Pikeville. The Rebel cavalry escaped, and Nelson continued on his way. Williams then met Nelson at a point northeast of Pikeville between Ivy Mountain and Ivy Creek.



Map source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Sandy_Expedition

Waiting by a narrow bend in the road, the Rebels surprised the Yankees by firing upon their constricted ranks. A fight ensued, but neither side gained the bulge. As the shooting ebbed, Williams’s men felled trees across the road and burned bridges to slow Nelson’s pursuing force.

Night approached and rain began which, along with the obstructions, convinced Nelson’s men to go into camp. In the meantime, Williams retreated to Virginia, stopping in Abingdon on the 9th. Sill’s force arrived too late to be of use, but he did skirmish with the remnants of Williams’s retreating force before he occupied Pikeville on the 9th. This bedraggled Confederate force retreated back into Virginia for succor. The Union forces consolidated their power in eastern Kentucky mountains.

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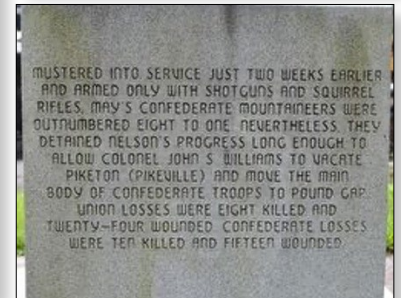
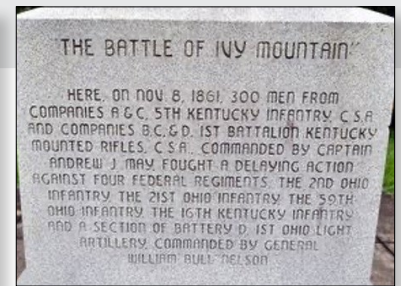
The following is an excerpt from future KYCWRT Speaker *Dan Masters' Civil War Chronicles* page article titled *Guns of Ivy Mountain*, posted February 16, 2021:

“During the progress of the fight, the Kentucky Rebels were loudly singing "Dixie", huzzahing for Jeff Davis, and with intense vehemence cursing the Yankees who were invading their state. The scene in the narrows during the fight was awful. The dead men filled the road in heaps and the wounded screamed terrifically. The blood of the killed and wounded ran in stream into the river, and in the panic and fright, many of the Yankees were crowded off the perpendicular bank and fell into the water. -- J.P. Richards and H.F. Grimes, Confederate soldiers.”

<https://dan-masters-civil-war.blogspot.com/2021/02/guns-of-ivy-mountain.html>

The following is an excerpt from another of Dan's articles on Ivy Mountain, titled *Ambushed at Ivy Mountain*, first posted on October 28, 2021. It mentions that some of the Federals at the battle were armed with Colt Revolving Rifles. Members will remember that Stuart Sanders mentioned these during his April 2026 presentation (and a member brought one to the meeting for us to see!) Readers are encouraged to read these two fine articles and Dan's other articles that include many first-person accounts.

“It was the first of many instances of Kentuckians fighting Kentuckians in this war, and in this case, the strength of numbers told and in about an hour the Federals forced the 5th Kentucky off Ivy Mountain after suffering 30 casualties. Chaplain Bayless' account of the Battle of Ivy Mountain originally appeared in the *Maysville Eagle* and was subsequently published in the November 28, 1861 edition of the *Louisville Daily Courier*.”



Images taken by Duane Hall, August 7, 2015; found on HMDB Website listing of the monument and interpretive signs at Ivy Mountain: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=87859>



(Photo by Darren Jefferson Clay on Historical Marker Database page): <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=171802>

<https://dan-masters-civil-war.blogspot.com/2021/10/ambushed-at-ivy-mountain.html>

November 20, 1861: Skirmish near Green River Bridge, Brownsville

From Kentucky Historical Society marker number 607: Civil War Skirmish.

Brig. Gen. T. C. Hindman's force, reconnoitering to protect Bowling Green portion of CSA defense line, approached Brownsville on Nov. 20, 1861. They skirmished here with the Union cavalry regiment of Colonel James S. Jackson, posted at Leitchfield. The Union loss was 7 killed, 5 wounded; CSA, one wounded. Confederates succeeded in obtaining vital medical supplies. Originally erected in 1963; text updated, recast in 1979.

Source: <https://history.ky.gov/markers/civil-war-skirmish>

Next Issue: Fighting Continues in Kentucky in December, 1861

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